

FAMOUS 1950s EC COMICS!



NO. 3
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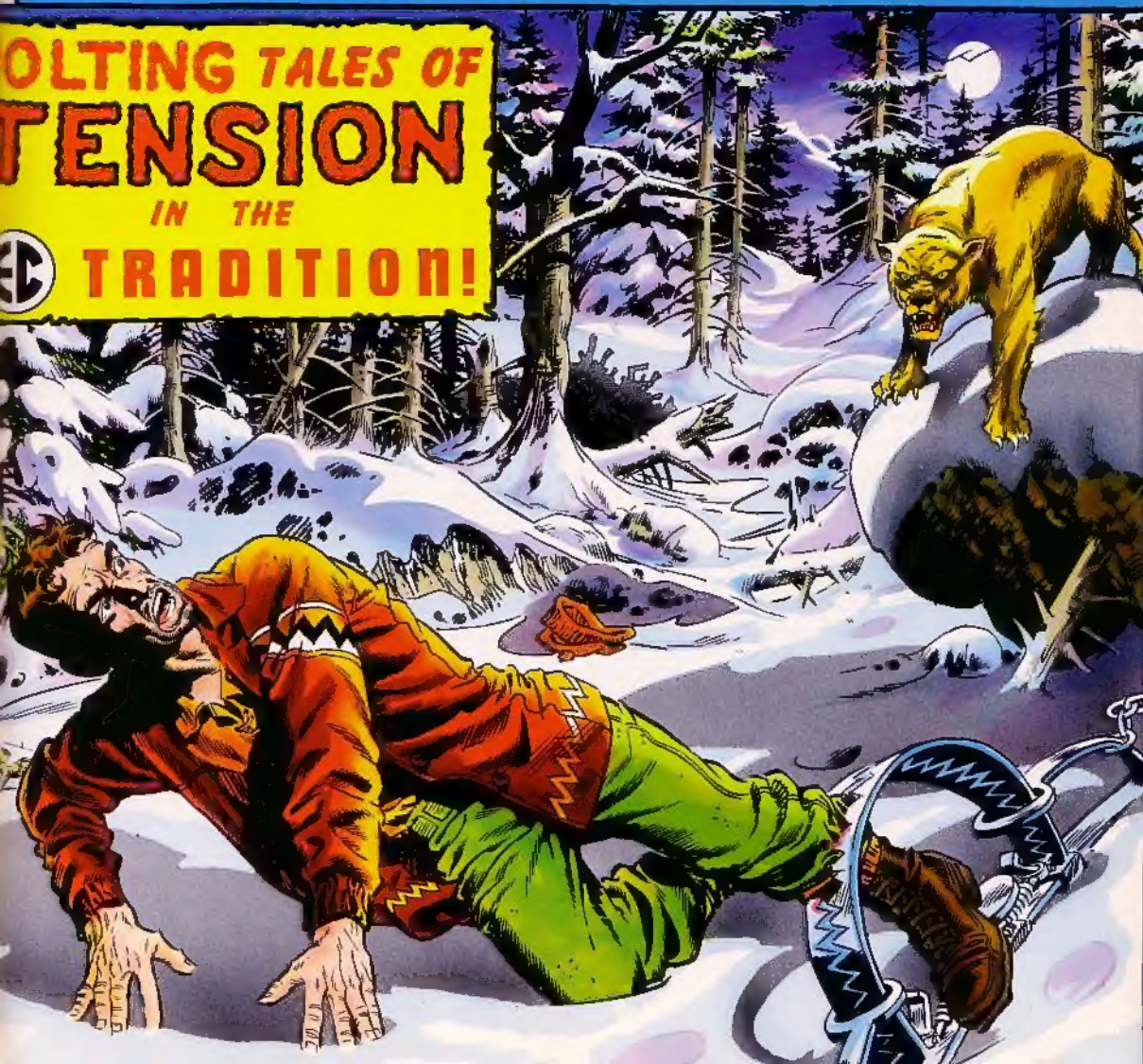
SHOCK

SUSPENSTORIES

OLTING TALES OF
TENSION

IN THE

EC TRADITION!



THE SHOCKING WIND-UP TO THIS ELECTRIFYING TALE
WILL JOLT YOU OUT OF YOUR SEATS!

Just **DESSERTS!**

**A CRIME
SUSPENSE STORY**



BERNARD TURNED OFF THE WATER AND DRIED HIS HANDS! HE CHUCKLED TO HIMSELF! THE DINNER-PARTY HAD BEEN *SUCH* A GOOD IDEA! BRINGING ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE TOGETHER AT ONE TIME HAD BEEN A STROKE OF *GENIUS*! AND EVERYTHING HAD GONE SO *WELL*! HE HUNG UP THE TOWEL CAREFULLY AND SURVEYED HIMSELF IN THE MIRROR...

THERE! NOW I LOOK PRESENTABLE! BUT I SHOULD GO BACK TO THEM! I MUSTN'T KEEP MY GUESTS WAITING!

BERNARD UNLOCKED THE BATHROOM DOOR AND HURRIED INTO THE DINING ROOM! HIS DINNER GUESTS SAT ABOUT THE TABLE IN SILENCE! NO ONE STIRRED! BERNARD GRINNED AT THEM...

I'M SORRY I WAS GONE SO LONG! I JUST WANTED TO CLEAN UP A BIT BEFORE WE TALKED THINGS OVER! YOU DIDN'T MIND, DID YOU?



BERNARD LOOKED AT EACH GUEST! THERE WERE FIVE OF THEM AT THE TABLE, BESIDE HIMSELF! THERE WAS HIS WIFE, CORA...HIS BEST FRIEND, IRVING...HIS OLD-MAID AUNT, CLORISSA...HIS BUSINESS PARTNER, JULIUS...AND A NURSE NAMED FANNY...

I SUPPOSE THIS DINNER HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OF A SHOCK TO ALL OF YOU! YOU'RE ALL SO QUIET NOW!



WELL, I CAN'T SAY I BLAME YOU! SHALL I TELL YOU HOW ALL THIS CAME ABOUT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE ALL HERE...LIKE THIS?



BERNARD LIT A CIGARETTE AND MOVED AROUND THE TABLE BEHIND HIS GUESTS! HE STOPPED IN BACK OF FANNY...THE NURSE WHO'D ONCE WORKED FOR HIM...

I'LL START WITH YOU, FANNY! YOU REMEMBER WHEN I HIRED YOU...



...AND I INTRODUCED YOU TO JIMMY...

THIS IS MY SON, JIMMY, FANNY! YOUR JOB WILL BE TO LOOK AFTER HIM...



AT LEAST YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER HIM! JIMMY WAS A GOOD BOY! HE LOOKED JUST LIKE MY FIRST WIFE, TOO! REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO TAKE HIM FOR STROLLS?...

HI, BEAUTIFUL! THAT'S A NICE KID YOU'VE GOT THERE!

IT AIN'T MINE, HANDSOME! I TAKE CARE OF LITTLE BOYS!



REMEMBER THE DAY IT HAPPENED, FANNY? YOU WERE REALLY CLEVER, WEREN'T YOU? YOU STRAPPED JIMMY IN HIS STROLLER SO HE WOULDN'T WANDER OFF WHILE YOU FLIRTED WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND...

WHAT TIME DO YOU GET OFF TONIGHT, BABY?

ABOUT EIGHT! GONNA TAKE ME SOMEPLACE?



REALLY CLEVER, WASN'T IT? YOU WERE SO BUSY MAKING EYES AT YOUR LATEST FIND, YOU NEVER NOTICED THE STROLLER BEGIN TO ROLL...

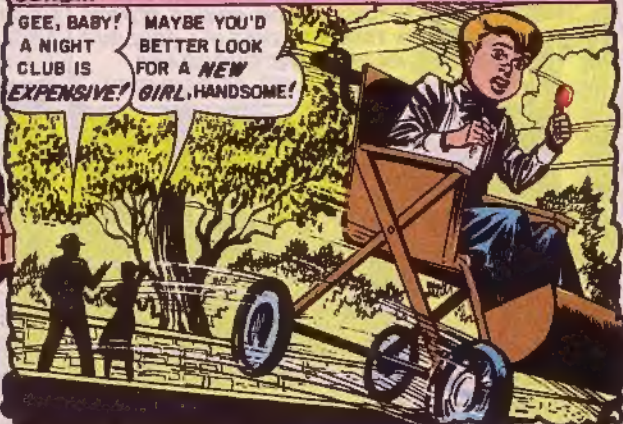
WHERE'D YOU LIKE TO GO, BABY?

SOMEPLACE NICE!
A NIGHT-CLUB,
MAYBE...

YOU'D FORGOTTEN TO PUT ON THE BRAKE! THE SIDEWALK WASN'T LEVEL! THE STROLLER ROLLED RIGHT OFF THE CURB...

GEE, BABY!
A NIGHT CLUB IS
EXPENSIVE!

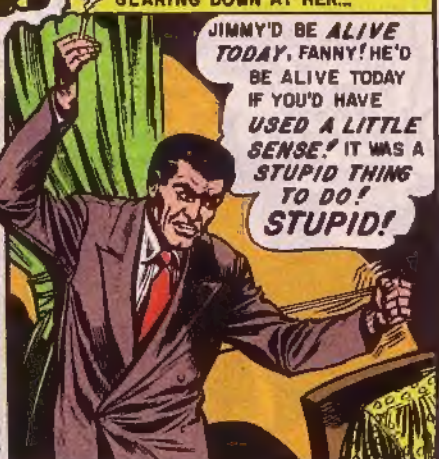
MAYBE YOU'D
BETTER LOOK
FOR A NEW
GIRL, HANDSOME!



...RIGHT INTO THE PATH OF A SPEEDING TRUCK...



BERNARD STOOD OVER FANNY... GLARING DOWN AT HER...



JIMMY'D BE ALIVE TODAY, FANNY! HE'D BE ALIVE TODAY IF YOU'D HAVE USED A LITTLE SENSE! IT WAS A STUPID THING TO DO! STUPID!

NEXT TO FANNY SAT JULIUS THOMPSON, BERNARD'S OLD BUSINESS PARTNER! BERNARD PATTED HIS SHOULDER...



DEAR JULIUS! WHAT TROUBLES YOU CAUSED WHEN YOU WIPED ME OUT!

OH, YES! I KNEW YOU ENGINEERED THE WHOLE SCHEME! YOU WEREN'T AS CLEVER AS YOU THOUGHT! YOU FORGOT ABOUT OUR INTERCOM SYSTEM!...



THAT'S RIGHT! JUST PAD YOUR BILLS TO OUR COMPANY! I'LL OKAY THEM AND GIVE YOU TWENTY PERCENT!

BUT, YOU'LL GO BUSTED FAST IF I DO THAT, JULIUS!

YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE PLANNED YOUR DIRTY DEALS RIGHT IN OUR OFFICES, JULIUS!...



THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO HAPPEN, JOE! I WANT TO WIPE BERNIE OUT...

OKAY, JULIE! I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT! BUT WE BETTER MAKE THAT TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT!

BERNARD STARED DOWN AT HIS OLD-MAID AUNT, CLORISSA.

THAT'S WHEN I CAME TO YOU, AUNT CLORISSA! *REMEMBER?* I TOLD YOU THE *WHOLE STORY!* I TOLD YOU THAT IF I *COULDN'T* RAISE FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, I'D BE BANKRUPT...

'REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME, AUNT CLORISSA? REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID?...

GOOD FOR YOU, BERNIE! SERVES YOU *RIGHT!* I TOLD YOU YOU'D END UP A *WORTHLESS TRAMP!*

BUT AUNT CLORISSA! I CAN *BEAT THEM!* FIVE THOUSAND! THAT'S *ALL* I NEED! IT WILL PULL ME *THROUGH* TILL I CAN *PROVE* THAT JULIUS IS *BEHIND* THIS *SCHEME!*

'BUT YOU WERE TOO STUPID TO UNDERSTAND! YOU SAT THERE, CLUTCHING YOUR BANKBOOKS... AND REFUSED...

NOT *ONE RED GENT*, BERNARD! NOT A *DIME!*

PLEASE, AUNT CLORISSA! USE YOUR HEAD! YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY *BACK...* WITH *INTEREST!*

'YOU LET ME SINK, DIDN'T YOU CLORISSA? YOU LET ME GO DOWN! WHEN JULIUS BROUGHT IN THE AUDITOR, I NEVER LET ON THAT I KNEW... DID I JULIUS?...

THAT'S THE *STORY*, BERNIE! WE'RE *THROUGH...* WASHED *UP!*

YOU'LL HAVE TO DECLARE *BANKRUPTCY*, SIR!

THIS... THIS LEAVES ME *FLAT BROKE*, JULIUS! I'M... *RUINED!*

I'M... *SORRY*, BERNIE! THANK GOODNESS, I HAVE A *LITTLE SOMETHING* TO *TIDE* ME *OVER!*

LITTLE SOMETHING! YOU WERE BACK IN BUSINESS INSIDE TWO MONTHS! AND YOU THOUGHT I WAS STUPID! YOU THOUGHT I *DIDN'T KNOW!* IT WAS YOU WHO WAS FOOLISH, JULIUS! IT WAS YOU WHO *DIDN'T* USE YOUR HEAD!

'REMEMBER WHEN WE MET ON THE STREET, AND I INVITED YOU TO THIS DINNER PARTY?...

WELL, BERNIE! HOW YOU *DOIN'* LATELY? *LONG TIME NO SEE!*

JULIUS! WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK! I'M HAVING A *DINNER-PARTY* NEXT WEEK! YOU'RE *INVITED...* FOR *OLD-TIMES* SAKE!

AND YOU GAVE, DIDN'T YOU? YOU FOOL... YOU STUPID FOOL! WHAT DID YOU EXPECT WHEN YOU GOT HERE? WHAT DID YOU ALL EXPECT? DID YOU THINK I INVITED YOU HERE OUT OF LOVE... FRIENDSHIP? DON'T YOU KNOW I DESPISE EACH OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME?



BERNARD MOVED AROUND THE TABLE STARING AT EACH OF THE FIVE PEOPLE SEATED BEFORE IT! HE STOPPED BEHIND HIS WIFE AND LIT ANOTHER CIGARETTE...

DEAR, SWEET, STUPID CORA! MY 'LOVING' WIFE! YOU NEVER SUSPECTED I KNEW ABOUT YOU AND IRVING, DID YOU?



BERNARD'S FACE GREW DARK! HE SNEERED AT CORA...

WELL, I KNEW IT ALL THE TIME, CORA! YOU DIDN'T FOOL ME FOR A MINUTE! I KNEW WHAT YOU WERE DOING BEHIND MY BACK!



IRVING SAT NEXT TO CORA! HE MADE NO SOUND...NO OUTCRY OF OBJECTION...

SURPRISED, AREN'T YOU, IRVING? YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE 'SAFE'! YOU THOUGHT I'D NEVER SUSPECT MY BEST FRIEND OF TRYING TO STEAL MY WIFE!



'HOW IGNORANT YOU BOTH WERE! HOW BLIND! WHY, I EVEN REMEMBER THE NIGHT YOUR LITTLE AFFAIR BEGAN! WE'D BEEN OUT TOGETHER...JUST THE THREE OF US! REMEMBER...?'

LET'S GO, IRVING! BERNARD'S HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK! I THINK WE'D BETTER GET HIM HOME!

SURE THING, CORA! C'MON, BERNIE!



YES, I'D BEEN DRINKING! AND I HAD A RIGHT TO IT! ANY MAN IN MY POSITION WOULD HAVE GOTTEN HIMSELF DEAD DRUNK! AFTER ALL...BEING RUINED FINANCIALLY IS NO EASY THING TO TAKE!

HUH? WASHA MATTER? WHA! TIME ISH IT?

IT'S LATE, DEAR! TIME TO GO HOME!

I'LL GET A CAB, CORA!



'YOU HAD A PRETTY ROUGH TIME GETTING ME TO THE CAB, DIDN'T YOU, IRV...CORA? AND ON THE WAY HOME...'

BERNARD! SPEAK TO ME! IRV! WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

HE'S PASSED OUT, CORA! DON'T WORRY! WE'LL PUT HIM TO BED AND HE'LL BE OKAY IN THE MORNING!



"YOU REMEMBER THAT NIGHT, CORA? IRV GARRIED ME INTO THE HOUSE AND LAID ME ON OUR BED! AND YOU TOOK OFF MY SHOES! REMEMBER?...."

IS HE OKAY, CORA?

SH-H-H! HE'S ASLEEP!

WELL! IT...IT'S LATE! I'D BETTER BE GOING!

NOT JUST YET, IRV! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU! IT'S ABOUT BERNARD!

ANYTHING WRONG, CORA?

EVERYTHING! HE WAS WIPED OUT TODAY! I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!



WHY, YOU'RE GOING TO STICK WITH HIM, CORA! HE'LL NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER NOW! A WOMAN'S PLACE IS WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES!

BUT I DON'T LOVE HIM, IRV! I... I NEVER LOVED HIM!

WHAT? SAY THAT AGAIN!

I ONLY MARRIED HIM FOR HIS MONEY... THE MONEY HIS FIRST WIFE LEFT HIM! DO YOU THINK I'D HAVE MARRIED A WIDOWER... WITH A CHILD... OTHERWISE?

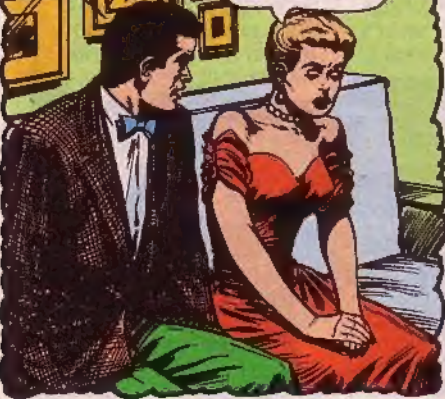


CORA! I... I NEVER KNEW!

NO ONE KNEW! NOT EVEN BERNIE! A WOMAN DOESN'T BRAG ABOUT THOSE THINGS! AND THEN YOU HAD TO COME BACK FROM ABROAD... HIS BEST FRIEND!

WHAT HAVE I GOT TO DO WITH THIS?

IT WASN'T SO BAD TILL THEN! I EVEN FELT SORRY FOR HIM WHEN JIMMY DIED! BUT THEN YOU CAME HOME... AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU!



'YOU'RE SURPRISED, AREN'T YOU, CORA? YOU DIDN'T THINK I HEARD WHAT WAS SAID THAT NIGHT? YOU THOUGHT I WAS OUT GOLD ON THE BED...'

YOU...YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH ME?

I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF, IRV! I TRIED TO HIDE IT! I KNEW YOU WERE HIS BEST FRIEND!



'WHY, YOU WERE SO ENGROSSSED IN EACH OTHER, YOU DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME OPEN THE BEDROOM DOOR...DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS WATCHING...'

YOU FOOL! YOU SILLY FOOL! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? WE'VE WASTED ALL THIS TIME! WHY, I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THE FIRST DAY I MET YOU!

OH, IRV! IRV! KISS ME!



'AND YOU REALIZED I'D NEVER GIVE YOU A DIVORCE, DIDN'T YOU, CORA? SO YOU AND IRV STARTED CARRYING ON A LOVE AFFAIR BEHIND MY BACK! BUT YOU DID SUCH STUPID THINGS! YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR HEAD!...'

HE'S WORKING LATE, TONIGHT, DARLING! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER, CORA!

HE'S WORKING LATE, TONIGHT, DARLING! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER, CORA!



'YOU BOTH MADE SO MANY MISTAKES! I CAME HOME EARLY THAT NIGHT! IRV'S CAR WAS PARKED OUTSIDE! I LOOKED IN THE WINDOW! YOU'D EVEN NEGLECTED TO PULL DOWN THE BLINDS...'



STUPID! STUPID! EVERY ONE OF YOU WERE STUPID! YOU DIDN'T THINK I KNEW!



YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR HEADS! NONE OF YOU DID!



PEOPLE WHO DON'T USE THEIR HEADS... DON'T NEED THEM...



BERNARD POUNDED THE TABLE IN ANGER! HIS GUESTS STIRRED! CORA PITCHED FORWARD! FANNY SLUMPED TO THE SIDE! IRVING SLID OFF HIS CHAIR AND DROPPED TO THE FLOOR! AUNT GLORISSA SAT STIFFLY! JULIUS SPRAWLED ACROSS HER LAP! BERNARD GRINNED AT THE DECAPITATED CORPSES! HE RAISED A GLASS OF WINE... IN TOAST...

TO PEOPLE... HEH... HEH...
WHO DON'T... HEH... HEH...
USE THEIR... EH... EH...
EH... E... E... E...



THE
END...

BRACE YOURSELVES FOR THE SOLID IMPACT
OF THIS GRIPPING NARRATIVE!

the Guilty!

THIS SHAMEFUL STORY MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES! IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED IN YOUR TOWN! IT BEGAN WITH THE PITIFUL WAIL OF A SIREN SCREAMING THROUGH THE BALMY SPRING AIR! THE MILLING CROWD AROUND THE JAIL-HOUSE GREW NOISY AS THE SQUAD-CAR PULLED UP! A DOOR SWUNG OPEN, AND SHERIFF HUMPHREY DAWSON STEPPED OUT! HE RAISED HIS HAND TO SILENCE THE ANGRY SHOUTS...

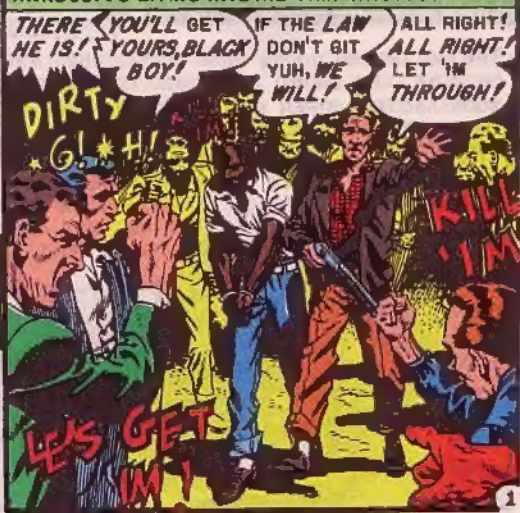
THE SHERIFF MOVED THROUGH THE CROWD, CLEARING A PATH UP THE JAIL-HOUSE STEPS! WHEN HE REACHED THE TOP, HE TURNED TO THE SQUAD-CAR PARKED AT THE CURB...



**A SHOCK
SUSPENSE STORY**



A DEPUTY STEPPED FROM THE SQUAD CAR, AND THE PRISONER NAMED COLLINS FOLLOWED! THE SUN-LIGHT GLEAMED ON HIS PERSPIRATION-COVERED BROWN SKIN! HIS ARMS HUNG LIMPLY BEFORE HIM... HANDCUFFS BITING INTO HIS THIN WRISTS...



THE DEPUTY LED COLLINS UP THE LONG FLIGHT OF STEPS! THE CROWD MOVED IN ON THE FRIGHTENED, DARK-SKINNED PRISONER... SHOUTING PROFANITIES, CURSING, THREATENING...

WHAT'D HE DO, ANYWAY?

KILLED A WHITE WOMAN!

DID HE ATTACK HER?

PROBABLY!

WAIT A MINUTE! THEY DON'T KNOW FOR SURE! AND WHO SAYS COLLINS DID IT?

HANK BARKER SEEN 'IM NEAR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME 'BOUT THE TIME IT HAPPENED.

THAT DON'T MAKE 'IM GUILTY!

IT DOES IN MY BOOK! AN SHERIFF DAWSON'S PRETTY SET ON IT, TOO!



SOMEBODY LET GO AT COLLINS AS HE PASSED, AND THE SPITTLE RAN DOWN HIS CHEEK! IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS CRYING! THE SHERIFF IGNORED THE INDIGNITY...

FINALLY, THEY GOT THE PRISONER INSIDE THE JAILHOUSE...

TAKE THE N---R TO HIS CELL, JED!

OKAY, SHERIFF.

THAT CROWD OUT THERE'S MIGHTY RILED UP, SHERIFF! DON'T YOU...

...DON'T YOU THINK WE BETTER LOCK AND BOLT THE DOORS? THEY MAY TRY SOMETHIN'!

IT'D SAVE THE STATE A LOT OF MONEY, PHIL! OH, WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT!

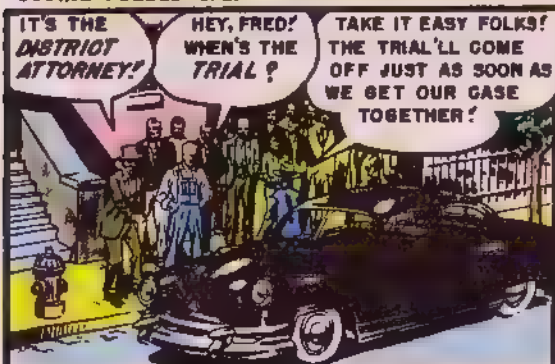
LET'S GO! LET'S GO! MAKE IT SNAPPY!

SMILE PRETTY YEAH! FOR THE OUT-OF-TOWN PAPERS, COLLINS!

WHILE YER STILL ALIVE!



THE JAIL-HOUSE DOORS WERE BOLTED SHUT, AND OUTSIDE, THE CROWD CONTINUED TO MILL ABOUT! SOON, ANOTHER SIREN WAILED AND A BLACK LIMOUSINE PULLED UP...



IT'S THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY!

HEY, FRED! WHEN'S THE TRIAL?

TAKE IT EASY FOLKS! THE TRIAL'LL COME OFF JUST AS SOON AS WE GET OUR CASE TOGETHER!

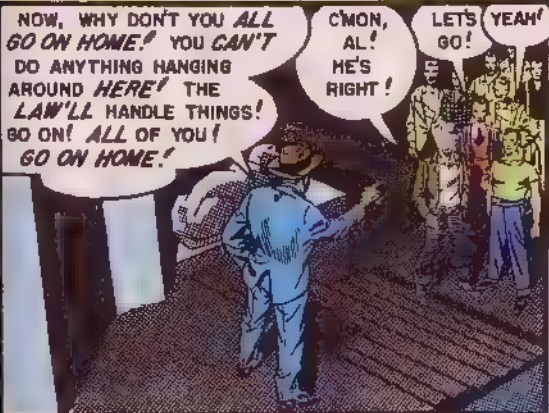
YOU AIN'T GONNA STALL AROUND, ARE YA, FRED?

WE KIN RUSH THINGS UP A BIT, Y'KNOW!

NO YOU DON'T, BOYS! COLLINS IS GOING TO GET A FAIR TRIAL! I DON'T WANT ANY FUNNY BUSINESS!



FREDERICK MOORE REACHED THE TOP OF THE JAIL-HOUSE STEPS AND TURNED TO FACE THE GATHERED TOWNSFOLK...

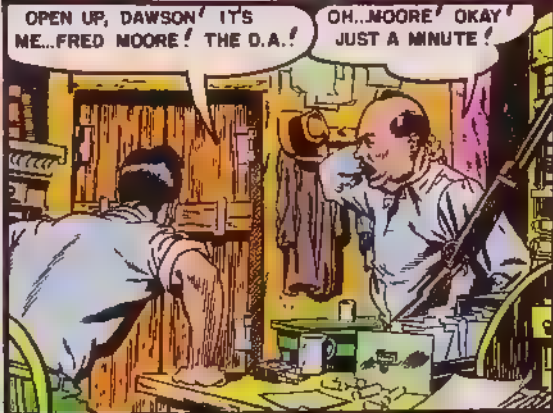


NOW, WHY DON'T YOU **ALL** GO ON HOME! YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING HANGING AROUND **HERE!** THE LAW'LL HANDLE THINGS! GO ON! **ALL** OF YOU! GO ON HOME!

C'MON, AL! HE'S RIGHT!

LET'S YEAH! GO!

THEY BEGAN TO MOVE OFF! A FEW AT FIRST... THEN MORE AND MORE! SOON, THE JAIL-HOUSE STEPS WERE ALMOST DESERTED...



OPEN UP, DAWSON! IT'S ME...FRED MOORE! THE D.A.!

OH...MOORE! OKAY! JUST A MINUTE!



SHERIFF DAWSON UNLOCKED THE DOORS AND PEERED OUT...

HEY! WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?

I SENT 'EM ON HOME! THERE'D ONLY BE A LOT OF TROUBLE IF THEY HUNG AROUND!



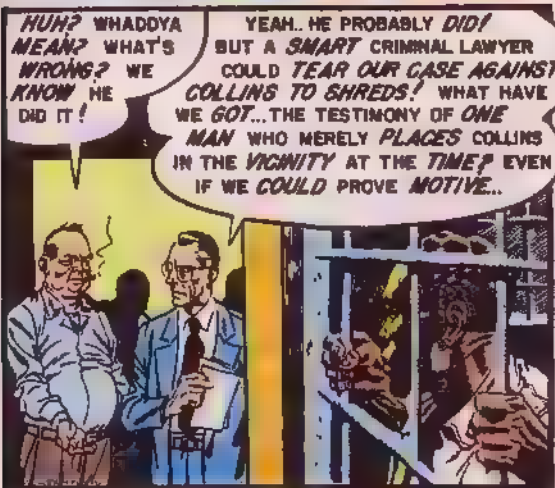
SHUCKS! I THOUGHT THEY'D TRY AN' LYNCH THE N---R!

DISAPPOINTED, SHERIFF? WELL, THERE'LL BE NO LYNCHING WHILE I'M D.A.!



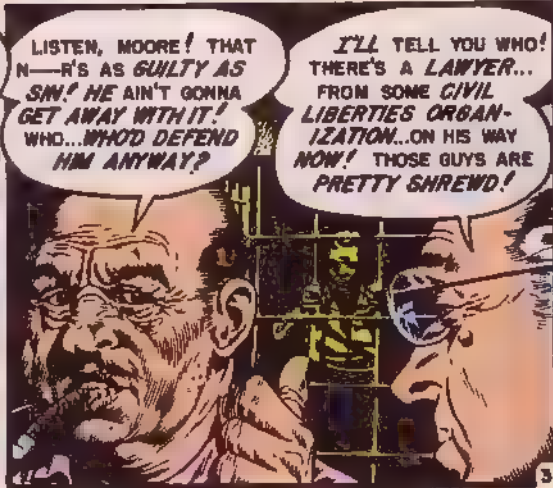
S...SURE, FRED! I AGREE! HE'LL GET HIS...FAIR AND SQUARE!

I'M NOT SO CERTAIN OF THAT, DAWSON!



HUH? WHADDYA MEAN? WHAT'S WRONG? WE KNOW HE DID IT!

YEAH..HE PROBABLY DID! BUT A SMART CRIMINAL LAWYER COULD TEAR OUR CASE AGAINST COLLINS TO SHREDS! WHAT HAVE WE GOT...THE TESTIMONY OF ONE MAN WHO MERELY PLACES COLLINS IN THE VICINITY AT THE TIME? EVEN IF WE COULD PROVE MOTIVE...



LISTEN, MOORE! THAT N---H'S AS GUILTY AS SIN! HE AIN'T GONNA GET AWAY WITH IT! WHO...WHO'D DEFEND HIM ANYWAY?

I'LL TELL YOU WHO! THERE'S A LAWYER... FROM SOME CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANIZATION...ON HIS WAY NOW! THOSE GUYS ARE PRETTY SHREWD!

WHY IN BLAZES DON'T
THOSE @#*!!'S
MIND THEIR OWN
DANG BUSINESS!
THIS IS OUR PARTY.
NOT THEIRS!

IT'S NO
PARTY, SHERIFF!
THERE'S A MAN'S
LIFE AT STAKE!
AND EVEN IF
WE FEEL HE
DID IT, HE'S
INNOCENT
UNTIL PROVED
GUILTY!

A MAN'S LIFE!
HAN! HE'S
ONLY A
DIRTY
N---R!
AND HE'S
GUILTY...
UNLESS THEY
CAN PROVE HE
AIN'T!

HAVE IT YOUR
OWN WAY...
ONLY I WARN
YOU! THIS
CASE ISN'T
AS CUT AND
DRIED AS
YOU THINK!

THEN WE OUGHT TO LET
THE CROWD GET 'IM
BEFORE HE GOES
TO TRIAL!

DAWSON!
IF YOU LET
THAT CROWD
GET COLLINS,
S'HELP ME I'LL
PROSECUTE YOU
FOR FAILURE TO
DO YOUR DUTY!

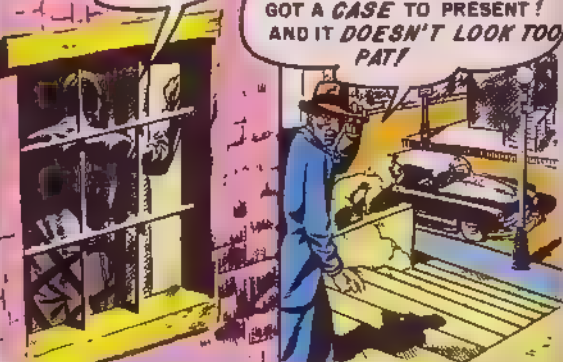


I CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF
A LYNCH CROWD
STORMS THIS JAIL-
HOUSE, MOORE! WHAT
DO YOU WANT ME TO DO,
NOW 'EM DOWN WITH
MACHINE-GUNS?

THEN GET COLLINS OUT
OF HERE! TAKE HIM TO
THE COUNTY SEAT! HE
CAN STAY THERE TILL
TRIAL-DATE!

OKAY! I'LL SNEAK 'IM
THERE TONIGHT! LET
THE BOYS OVER THERE
WORRY ABOUT HIM!

THEY'VE GOT A PRETTY
STRONG JAIL THERE, DAWSON!
THEY WON'T HAVE TO DO
MUCH WORRYIN'! IT'S US!
WE GOT THE WORRIES! WE
GOT A CASE TO PRESENT!
AND IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO
PAT!



THAT NIGHT, A SQUAD-CAR PULLED UP TO THE REAR OF
THE JAIL-HOUSE, AND THE PRISONER WAS HUSTLED
OUT TO IT..

WHERE WE TAKIN'
'IM, SHERIFF?

COUNTY SEAT!
D.A.'S ORDERS!
GET ON IN,
N---R!

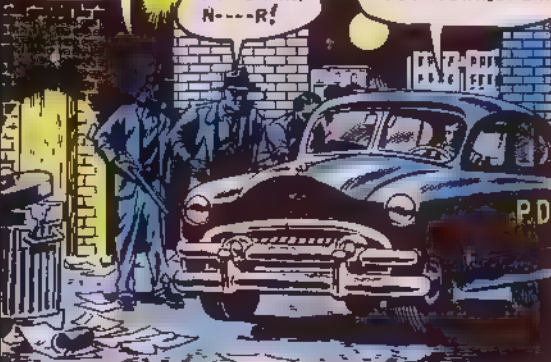
THERE'S A LYNCH
CROWD FORMIN'
DOWNTOWN, SHERIFF!

...THEN THE CAR MOVED OFF OUT OF TOWN...

YOU'RE MIGHTY LUCKY,
COLLINS! WE JUS' GOT
YOU OUT IN TIME!

THEY'D'VE
STRUNG YOU
UP SURE!
EH, SHERIFF?

SHUT UP
AND
DRIVE!



THE NEXT DAY, THE LAWYER FROM OUT-OF-TOWN ARRIVED UPON THE SCENE...

MY NAME IS ANDERSON LOWELL ANDERSON! I'M HERE TO REPRESENT AUBREY COLLINS!

HE AINT HERE! WE TOOK HIM TO THE COUNTY SEAT!

THAT WAS A VERY WISE THING TO DO, SHERIFF! WAS IT YOUR IDEA?

NO! THE D.A.'S! FOR MY PART, THEY COULDA STRUNG 'IM UP LAST NIGHT! HE'S GUILTY... SURE!

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN! NOW I'D LIKE TO EXAMINE THE TESTIMONY OF THIS MAN, HANK BARKER!

YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE THE D.A. 'BOUT THAT! HE'S GOT ALL THE DOPE IN HIS FILES!



SOON, RUMORS BEGAN TO FLY AROUND THE TOWN...

HEY, SHERIFF! THEY SAY THIS GUY ANDERSON'S GONNA GET COLLINS OFF!

THEY SAY HE'S A SHARP COOKIE!

YOU GONNA LET 'IM, SHERIFF? COLLINS'S GUILTY, AIN'T HE?

DARN RIGHT! BUT WHAT KIN I DO? I DONE MY JOB! I PICKED 'IM UP! IT'S UP TO THE D.A. NOW!



THE DAYS CRAWLED BY...

THEY SAY ANDERSON'S GONNA BUST OPEN HANK BARKER'S TESTIMONY, DAWSON!

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE! WE GONNA STAND FOR THAT, SHERIFF?

YOU SHOULD A LYNCHED 'IM WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE! I CAN'T DO NOTHIN' NOW!



TRIAL-DATE DREW NEAR...

MR ANDERSON! DO YOU HAVE ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE TO THE PRESS?

GENTLEMEN! I HAVE SPOKEN TO MY CLIENT, MR. COLLINS...AND I HAVE EXAMINED THE TESTIMONY! I AM CONVINCED OF HIS INNOCENCE AND WILL PROVE IT AT THE TRIAL!

COLLINS IS GUILTY! HE PRACTICALLY ADMITTED IT! NO LEGAL SMART-ALOE FROM OUT-OF-TOWN IS GONNA GET HIM OFF! NOT WHILE I'M SHERIFF!

MAY WE QUOTE YOU, SHERIFF DAWSON?



THE DAY OF THE TRIAL DAWNED DARK AND DISMAL! IT HAD RAINED ALL THE PREVIOUS NIGHT! THE SHERIFF AND TWO OF HIS DEPUTIES SET OFF FOR THE COUNTY SEAT TO BRING BACK AUBREY COLLINS...

THINK THEY'LL GET THE G*%+* OFF, SHERIFF?

THAT ANDERSON GUY HAS SOMETHIN' UP HIS SLEEVE!

MAYBE I GOT SOMETHIN' UP MY SLEEVE, TOO! NO N---R-LOVIN' LAWYER'S GONNA MAKE A FOOL OUTTA ME!

WHATCHA GONNA DO, SHERIFF? HUH?

LET'S HEAR IT, SHERIFF!

SHUT UP AND DRIVE!

IT HAD BEGUN TO RAIN WHEN THE SQUAD-CAR PICKED UP COLLINS AT THE COUNTY SEAT JAIL-HOUSE...

LET'S GO, COLLINS! MUSTN'T KEEP THE COURT WAITIN'!

GET IN THERE, N---R!

THEY STARTED BACK IN SILENCE! COLLINS SAT, HANDCUFFED, BETWEEN SHERIFF DAWSON AND ONE DEPUTY! THE OTHER DEPUTY DROVE! FINALLY...

I SAID STOP THE CAR!

S-SURE THING, SHERIFF!

STOP THE CAR, PHIL!

HUH?

THE SQUAD-CAR ROLLED TO A STOP! THE RAIN CONTINUED TO POUR DOWN...

GET OUT AND SEE WHAT'S WRONG, JED! I THINK WE GOT A FLAT! TAKE A LOOK!

Y-YEAH, SHERIFF! SURE! SURE!

THE DEPUTY NAMED JED STEPPED OUT INTO THE POURING RAIN AND STARTED TO CIRCLE THE CAR, KICKING AT THE TIRES...

OKAY, N---R! RUN! GO ON! YOU'RE FREE!

HUH? YOU LETTIN' 'IM GO, SHERIFF?

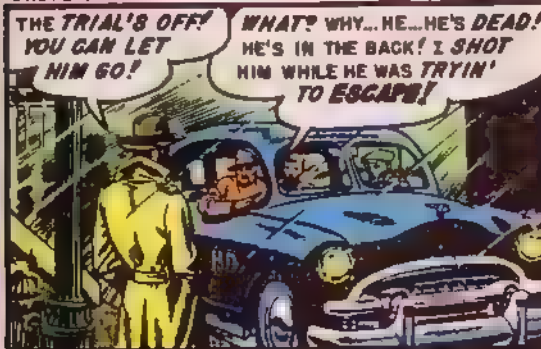
DAWSON SHOVE COLLINS OUT OF THE CAR! THE DARK-SKINNED BOY SPRAWLED IN THE MUD! THE SHERIFF DREW HIS GUN AND COCKED THE HAMMER...



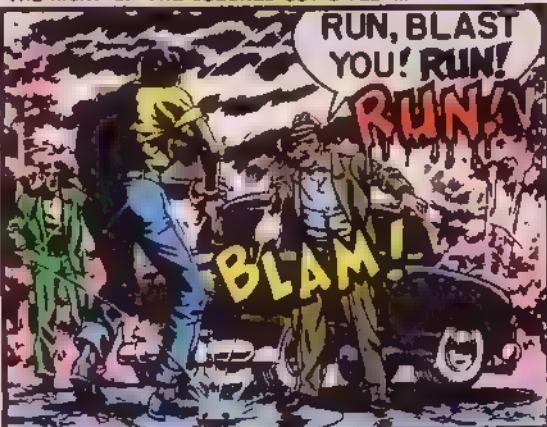
COLLINS TURNED AND RAN! THE SHERIFF SIGHTED CAREFULLY...



THEY PICKED UP COLLINS AND DUMPED HIM IN THE BACK SEAT! THEN THEY DROVE ON TO TOWN! THERE WAS A CROWD AROUND THE COURT-HOUSE WHEN THEY ARRIVED! MOORE, THE D.A., CAME TO THE CURB AS THEY DROVE UP...



COLLINS GOT TO HIS FEET! HE STARED AT THE GUN FOR A MOMENT, SHAKING HIS HEAD! DAWSON SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER! THE BULLET KICKED UP THE PUDDLE TO THE RIGHT OF THE COLORED BOY'S FEET...



THE BULLET CAUGHT THE DARK-SKINNED BOY IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD! HE PITCHED FORWARD...



HE WAS LYING FACE DOWN IN A MUD-PUDDLE WHEN THEY CAME UP...



GOOD LORD! HANK BARKER JUST CONFESSED! ANDERSON BROKE HIM DOWN! HE DID IT! HE KILLED THE WOMAN! COLLINS WAS INNOCENT! INNOCENT AS A BABY! WELL... TOO BAD HE ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE! WONDER WHAT CAUSED HIM TO TRY?



WHETHER AUBREY COLLINS WAS INNOCENT OR GUILTY IS NOT IMPORTANT! BUT FOR ANY AMERICAN TO HAVE SO LITTLE REGARD FOR THE LIFE AND RIGHTS OF ANY OTHER AMERICAN IS A DEBASEMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION UPON WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS FOUNDED!

— EDITORS



JUMP-OFF!

Battered though he was, Ben Troy was alert enough to glance at the elevator button which the cop pressed. Despite the haze of pain forcing him back past the edge of unconsciousness, the captive Public Enemy caught sight of the number "2" under the man's thumb. He groaned in agony and tossed frantically on the wheeled emergency stretcher, but what he had seen kept thrumming through his fevered brain. The Police who had captured him when his car cracked-up... they were taking him to a hospital room on the *second floor*. His luck was holding out! The *second floor* gave him at least a whisper of a chance to escape the hot sear awaiting his recovery from the accident! Two... *two*... *TWO*... with a break like this, he had an even-chance of a getaway!

It seemed like aeons later that Ben Troy recovered consciousness. Only his right eye was free of bandages, and when he turned in the bed a stabbing pain shuddered through his body. He was able to move, agonizing though it was... those fool cops had neglected to strap him to his bed! *They must've thought that car crackup put old Ben on the skids*, he thought to himself. *After Sing Sing and Atlanta, jumping-off from this cheese-box of a hospital oughtta be a snap!*

Slowly, gritting his teeth to keep a gasp of pain from escaping, he slid from the hospital bed and wobbled toward the single window at the far side of the darkened room. He turned once and listened to the voices whispering outside the door. *Two of them*, he gloated. *two cops stationed outside! That dimwit District Attorney's crazy to think*

THAT'S enough to keep Ben Troy from escaping!

With painstaking care he opened the room's only window. It was pitch-black outside... he couldn't see a foot beyond the sill. But what Ben *could* see made him chuckle inwardly. The window was *unbarred*! All he had to do was get out on that sill and drop to the ground! With teeth grinding into his lower lip to keep from crying out in pain, he clambered ponderously into the space left by the open window. Nothing was visible below him in the murkiness outside... must be a narrow inner court, he decided! Perfect spot for his jump-off! Enclosed as it was, his descent would never be heard! He could probably find a door and force his way out before they ever suspected that he was gone!

He drew a deep breath and relaxed his grip on the window sill, feeling the air rush up to meet him as he dropped. *Second floor*, he gloated... *all I'll get is a little musing up! Lucky those jerks didn't know I realized how close to the ground I was!*

* * * * *

The bald police officer looked at his wrist-watch.

"Wow!" he exclaimed. "Time sure passed while we gassed out here! We better get this Troy character back to the receiving room. Why we gotta keep moving him around this hospital is something I'll never understand!"

The bald-headed officer turned the knob of the door he had been guarding and, followed by the other policeman, stepped into Room 819...

YOU'LL BE JARRED BY THE STARTLING WIND-UP TO THIS
SCIENCE-FICTION YARN!

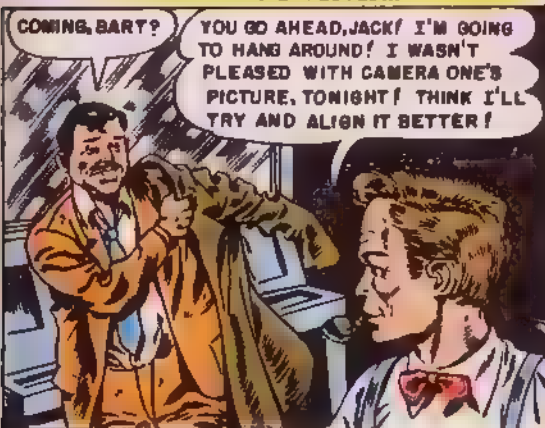
The **BIG STAND-UP!**



A SCIENCE-FICTION SUSPENSE STORY

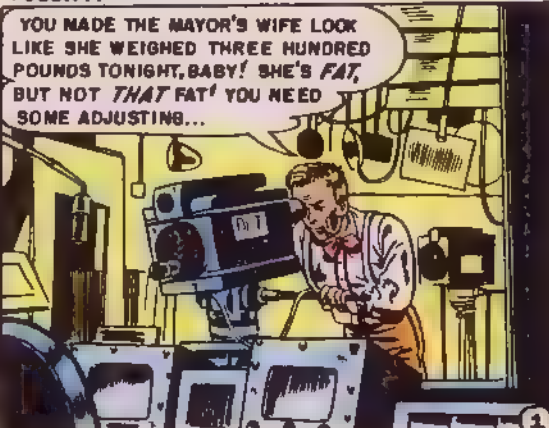
MY NAME IS BART THOMPSON! I'M A TELEVISION ENGINEER! YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THE STORY I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU... BUT IT'S *TRUE*, EVERY WORD OF IT! I KNOW, BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO *ME*! IT ALL BEGAN THE NIGHT I'D DECIDED TO WORK LATE AT THE T.V. STUDIO WHERE I WAS EMPLOYED...

THE NIGHT'S TRANSMISSION TIME WAS OVER AND EVERYONE HAD GONE HOME! JACK WAS THE LAST TO LEAVE! I WENT OUT ONTO THE SOUND STAGE AND ROLLED CAMERA ONE OVER TO THE CONTROL ROOM WINDOW! I POINTED IT AT MY SEAT INSIDE AND FOCUSED CAREFULLY...



COMING, BART?

YOU GO AHEAD, JACK! I'M GOING TO HANG AROUND! I WASN'T PLEASED WITH CAMERA ONE'S PICTURE, TONIGHT! THINK I'LL TRY AND ALIGN IT BETTER!



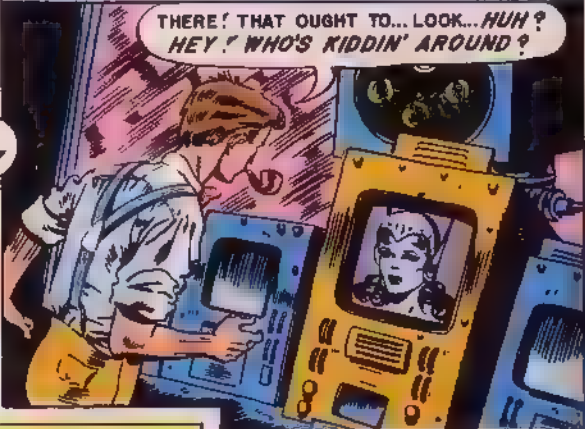
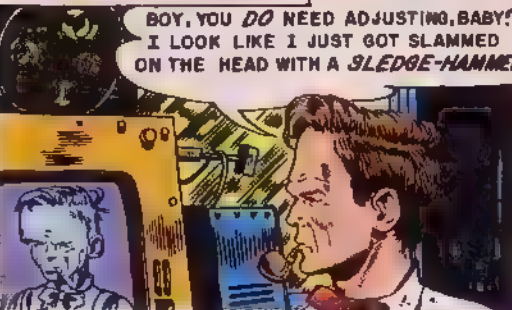
YOU MADE THE MAYOR'S WIFE LOOK LIKE SHE WEIGHED THREE HUNDRED POUNDS TONIGHT, BABY! SHE'S *FAT*, BUT NOT *THAT FAT*! YOU NEED SOME ADJUSTING...

THEN I WENT INTO THE CONTROL ROOM! I SAT DOWN AT THE MONITOR-PANEL AND FLIPPED ON CAMERA ONE'S MONITOR-SCREEN! THEN I CUT IN THE JUICE AND DROPPED THE TRANSMITTER HOOK-UP SO THE IMAGE WOULDN'T GO OUT OVER THE AIR! PRETTY SOON MY OWN SAD PUSS APPEARED ON THE PANEL...

BOY, YOU *DO* NEED ADJUSTING, BABY! I LOOK LIKE I JUST GOT SLAMMED ON THE HEAD WITH A *SLEDGE-HAMMER*!

I WENT OUT TO THE CAMERA AND INCREASED THE VERTICAL DRIVE! THEN I CHECKED THE LINEARITY AND RETURNED TO MY SEAT...

THERE! THAT OUGHT TO... LOOK... *HUH?* HEY! WHO'S KIDDIN' AROUND?



THE FACE ON CAMERA ONE'S MONITOR-TUBE WAS NOT *MY* FACE! IT WAS THE FACE OF A *BEAUTIFUL GIRL*...

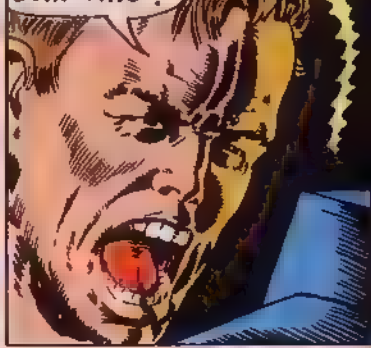
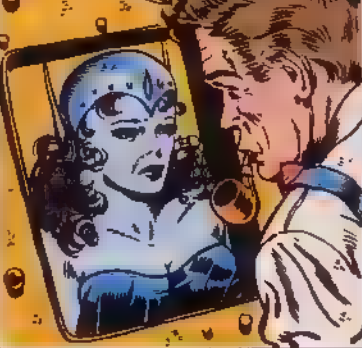
I FLICKED ON THE GONTROL ROOM MIKE AND STUDIO P.A. SYSTEM! MY VOICE ECHOED THROUGH THE DESERTED STUDIO...

I WAS LOSING MY TEMPER FAST! FIRST THAT GORGEOUS FACE... AND NOW SOME JIVE DOUBLE-TALK...

HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA! SOMEBODY TRYIN' TO BE FUNNY?

LOOK, WHOEVER YOU SHUL- ARE, I'M TRYIN' TO GET SOME WORK DONE! STOP THE COMEDY AND CUT IN CAMERA ONE... *HUH?*

CLIMB OFF IT! CRUS-FON- I DIDN'T STAY DUH-MOR-NYD- LATE FOR FUN! ALA-VORT! JACK? YOU DOIN' THIS?



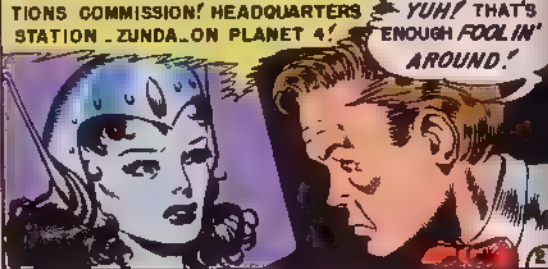
I COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT! CAMERA ONE WAS 'ON! I COULD TELL BY THE GLOWING RED LIGHT ON THE TOP! AND IT WAS POINTED DIRECTLY AT ME! YET, THE MONITOR IN THE CONTROL ROOM CARRIED THE PICTURE OF THAT LUSCIOUS BABE! I PINCHED MYSELF! I FIGURED I MUST BE DREAMING...

NO! I WAS WIDE AWAKE! SOMETHING FREAKISH WAS TAKING PLACE! UNLESS SOMEBODY'D DELIBERATELY REWIRED THE MONITOR-BOARD, THIS THING WAS IMPOSSIBLE! BUT I NEARLY TORE THE PLAGE APART WHEN SHE STARTED TALKING ENGLISH...

OUCH!

OUCH? QUAD-NORT-DOR-VON- COST-DU-MALA-BOD?

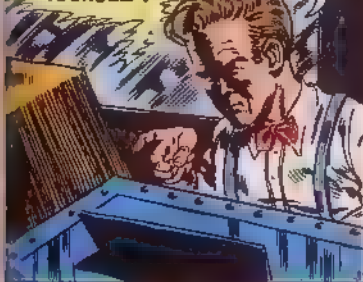
WHO... ARE... YOU? I... AM... LARA! HUH? WHA? VIEW- GRAPH... ENGINEER... 7B2R' THIRD? AW, CUT SHIFT... INTERPLANETARY COMMUNICA- TIONS COMMISSION! HEADQUARTERS YUH! THAT'S STATION -ZUNDA- ON PLANET 4! ENOUGH FOOLIN' AROUND!



BUT SHE JUST KEPT ON TALKING!
AND SHE WAS DEAD SERIOUS...

OPERATION...OF...INTER-
PLANETARY COMMUNICA-
TIONS...IS...NOT...FOOLING
AROUND! YOU...ARE...
JAMMING MY WAVE-
LENGTH! IDENTIFY...
YOURSELF!

WHA...?
WHY...
I I...
LISTEN,
CUTIE-
PIE!...



THIS IS T.V. ENGINEER
BART THOMPSON...
STATION WZYR-TV...
PLANET EARTH...
SALARY \$73.50 PER...
AND I'LL KNOCK
YOUR BOYFRIEND'S
HEAD OFF WHEN I
GET ANOHD OF...

PLANET...
WHAT?!



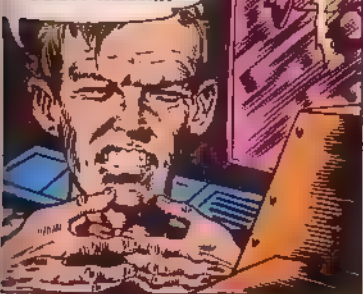
EARTH! LIKE HE'S
GONNA BE BURIED
SIX FEET UNDER!
LOOK HERE, JACK!
THAT'S ENOUGH!

EARTH? IN
WHAT SOLAR
SYSTEM IS
YOUR PLANET
LOCATED?



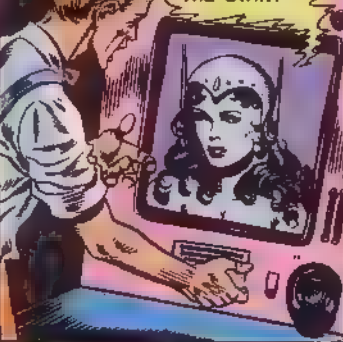
IN THE SOLAR
SYSTEM WITH
THE NINE
PLANETS...
INCLUDING THE
ONE WITH THE RING...
WHICH IS JUST WHAT
I'M GONNA DO TO
YOUR NECK...

THE ONE WITH
THE RING! BUT
THAT IS
IMPOSSIBLE!



HUH? WHAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE?

YOUR SOLAR SYSTEM
IS EIGHTY LIGHT-
YEARS AWAY! THE
ONE WITH THE RING...
IT IS THE SIXTH
PLANET FROM
THE STAR?



THAT'S RIGHT!
AND I'M ON THE
THIRD...EARTH!
SAY! IS THIS A
JOKE OR
ISN'T IT?

THIS IS NO
JOKE, BART
THOMPSON...
STATION WZYR-TV...
SALARY
\$73.50 PER! WE
ARE EIGHTY
LIGHT-YEARS
APART!



BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! VERY
DO YOU SEE ME?



BUT I'M NOT EVEN
TRANSMITTING!
I'M ON A CLOSED
CIRCUIT!

OBVIOUSLY,
IT IS AN
INTERSTELLAR
ELECTRONIC
WARP!



SAY! HOW COME I
CAN UNDERSTAND
YOU? IF YOU'RE
FROM SOME OTHER
WORLD, NOW COME
YOU SPEAK
ENGLISH?

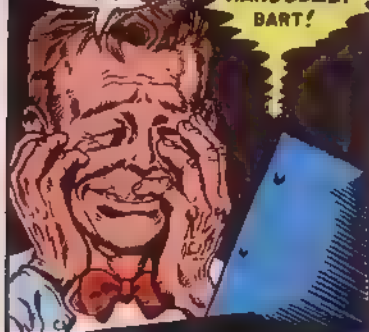
I DON'T
SPEAK YOUR
LANGUAGE! I
SPEAK MY OWN!
YOU HEARD IT
BEFORE! I
HAVE AN AUTO-
MATIC TRANSLATE
HOOKED UP! IT'S A
TYPE OF MECHANICAL-
ELECTRIC BRAIN! IT
TRANSLATES OUR RESPEC-
TIVE LANGUAGES FOR US!



LARA WAS LOVELY! WE CHATTED FOR HALF THE NIGHT! SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HER PLANET, AND I TOLD HER ALL ABOUT EARTH...

YOU...YOU'RE VERY BEAUTIFUL, LARA!

AND YOU ARE QUITE HANDSOME, BART!



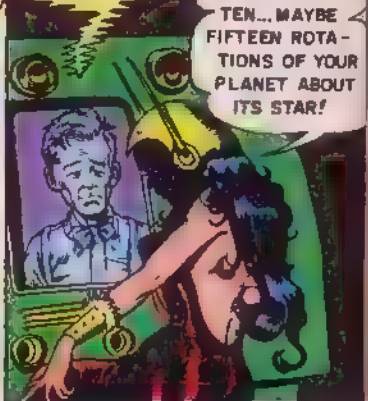
YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT SPACE-TRAVEL! YOUR PEOPLE HAVE IT?

OH, YES! WE TRAVEL ALL OVER OUR SOLAR SYSTEM!



BUT...YOU YOU GOULDN'T COME HERE, COULD YOU?

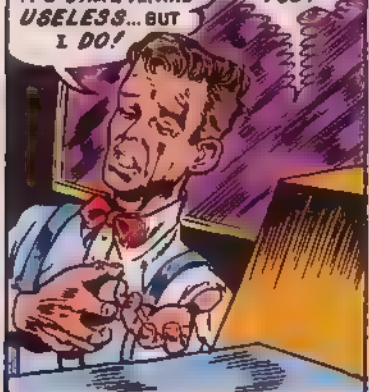
WE...WE COULD! BUT IT WOULD TAKE A VERY LONG TIME! TEN...MAYBE FIFTEEN ROTATIONS OF YOUR PLANET ABOUT ITS STAR!



TOWARDS MORNING I CONFESSED TO LARA...

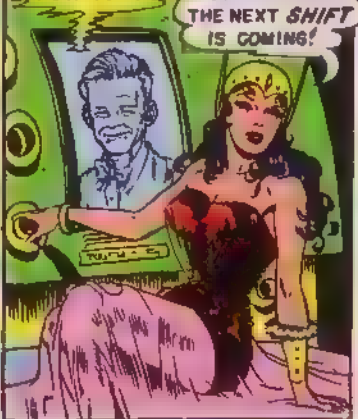
I...I LOVE YOU, LARA! I KNOW IT'S CRAZY...AND USELESS...BUT I DO!

OH...BART! I LOVE YOU, TOO!



WOULD YOU COME TO EARTH, HONEY? I WOULD WAIT FOR YOU!

WE WILL SEE, BART! NOW, I MUST SIGN OFF! THE NEXT SHIFT IS COMING!



BUT, LARA! SUPPOSE WE CANNOT MAKE CONTACT AGAIN!

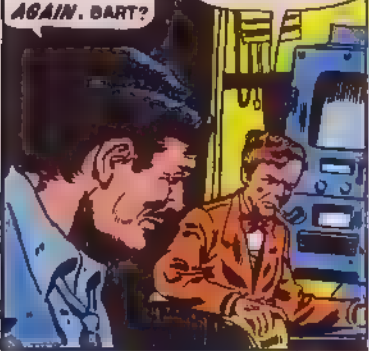
I WILL NOTE EVERY INSTRUMENT SETTING! YOU DO THE SAME! WE WILL TRY! GOOD-BYE!



THEN SHE WAS GONE! I CHECKED EVERYTHING CAREFULLY...NOTING EACH ADJUSTMENT OF THE EQUIPMENT IN THE CONTROL ROOM! THEN I WENT HOME! THE NEXT NIGHT...

STAYIN' LATE AGAIN, BART?

THAT'S RIGHT!



AS SOON AS EVERYONE WAS GONE, I SET UP THE EQUIPMENT EXACTLY AS IT HAD BEEN THE PREVIOUS NIGHT! LARA CAME IN SHARP...

DARLING! I WAS SO WORRIED...THAT THAT IT WOULDN'T WORK AGAIN! I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU ALL DAY!

OH, BART! I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU, TOO!



THAT NIGHT I LEARNED THAT LARA'S SOCIETY HAD A MARRIAGE-FAMILY SET-UP ALSO...

IF...IF YOU CAME TO EARTH, LARA... I'D MARRY YOU!

WOULD YOU, DEAREST? WE'LL SEE!



WE WENT ON LIKE THAT FOR A YEAR! EVERY NIGHT I'D TALK TO LARA ACROSS THE VOID OF SPACE! WE FELL DESPERATELY AND PASSIONATELY IN LOVE! I LONGED FOR HER! THEN, ONE NIGHT...

I HAVE WONDERFUL NEWS, DARLING! ONE OF OUR SCIENTISTS HAS JUST PERFECTED A NEW TYPE SPACE-DRIVE! IT WOULD ONLY TAKE HALF A ROTATION TO GET TO YOUR PLANET NOW!

COULD YOU...?

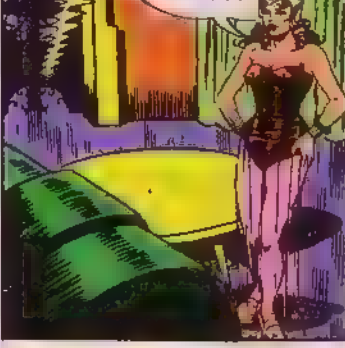


I COULD STEAL THE EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET-SHIP! IF I GOT AWAY, THEY'D NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP ME... AND I'D COME TO YOU! BUT, IF I WERE CAUGHT...IT WOULD MEAN MY LIFE!



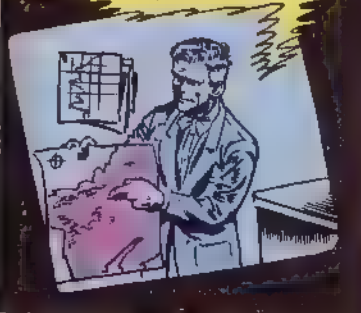
MY LIFE IS EMPTY WITHOUT YOU, LARA!

THEN I WILL DO IT! BUT WE MUST PLAN EVERYTHING CAREFULLY! VERY CAREFULLY!



WE STARTED BY MY TRANSMITTING MAPS OF EARTH TO LARA! IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT SHE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO LAND...

YOU'VE GOT THE HEMISPHERE AND CONTINENT! NOW HERE'S A MORE DETAILED MAP OF THE AREA! SEE! YOU'LL LAND HERE...ON THESE SALT-FLATS!



I'D CHOSEN THE MOST BARREN AREA I COULD THINK OF FOR LARA TO COME DOWN IN! I WANTED TO KEEP THIS WHOLE THING QUIET! AFTER TWO WEEKS OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION...

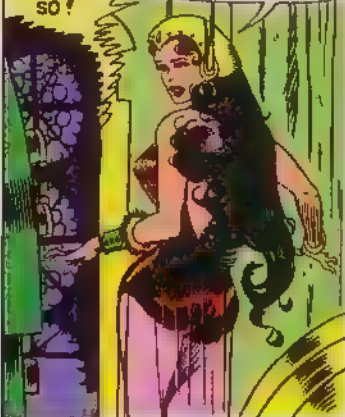
JUST COME DOWN AS NEAR TO THE BLINKING LIGHT AS POSSIBLE! THAT'LL BE ME!

GOOD-BYE, BART! SEE YOU IN...SIX MONTHS YOU CALL IT?



YES, BABY! SIX MONTHS! AND...PLEASE...BE CAREFUL! I...I LOVE YOU SO!

I'LL BE CAREFUL! I'VE ALREADY BRIBED THE GUARD! IT WILL BE EASY! TILL WE MEET...



THE NEXT NIGHT, I TRIED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH LARA...BUT SHE DIDN'T COME IN! I KNEW SHE WAS ON HER WAY! THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WERE SHEER AGONY... THE AGONY OF WAITING! FINALLY, THE TIME DREW NEAR...

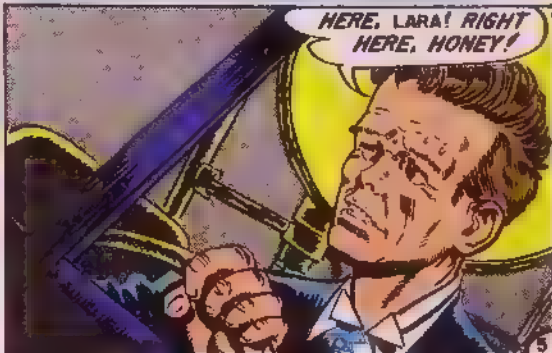
REMEMBER THAT JEEP WITH THE SEARCHLIGHT MOUNTED ON IT THAT WE USED WHEN THAT MOVIE STAR CAME TO TOWN, JACK?

YEP! WE GOT IT FROM THE ARMY! THEY SAID WE COULD HAVE IT ANYTIME!

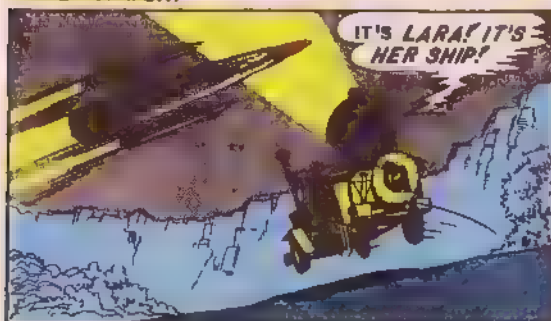


I BORROWED IT! I GAVE THE ARMY A TALL STORY ABOUT ANOTHER MOVIE STAR AND DROVE OUT TO THE SALT-FLATS! AS THE HOUR DREW NEAR, I STARTED FLASHING THE LIGHT INTO THE STAR-STUDDED SKY...

HERE, LARA! RIGHT HERE, HONEY!

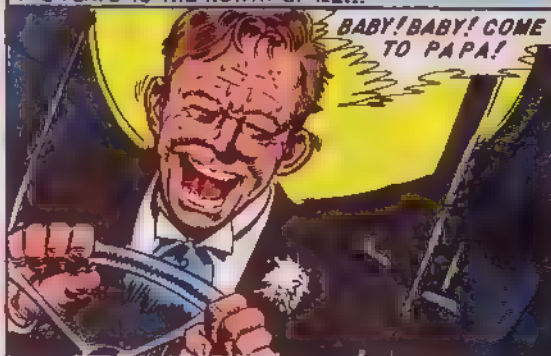


SUDDENLY THE SKY ABOVE ME WAS FILLED WITH A ROARING, AND THE SEARCHLIGHT CAUGHT A GLEAMING SILVER SHAPE...



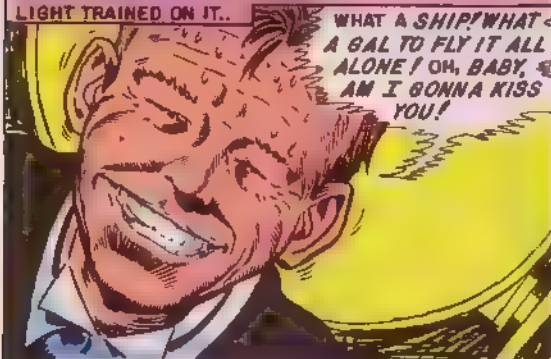
IT'S LARA! IT'S HER SHIP!

LARA'S ROCKET-SHIP DROPPED TAIL-FIRST TOWARD THE FLATS TO THE NORTH OF ME...



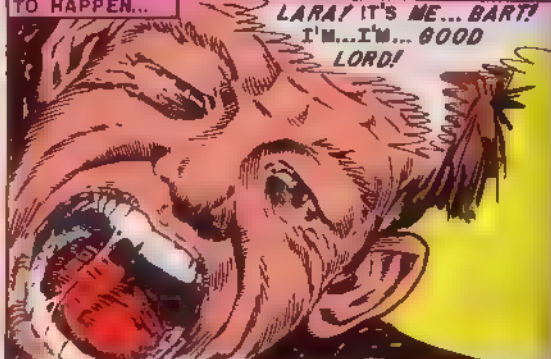
BABY! BABY! COME TO PAPA!

THE SHIP CAME TO REST ABOUT A MILE AWAY! I SPED ACROSS THE FLATS TOWARD IT, THE SEARCHLIGHT TRAINED ON IT...



WHAT A SHIP! WHAT A GAL TO FLY IT ALL ALONE! OH, BABY, AM I GONNA KISS YOU!

AS I NEARED LARA'S SHIP, A STRANGE THING BEGAN TO HAPPEN...



LARA! IT'S ME... BART! I'M... I'M... GOOD LORD!

IT WAS LARA'S SHIP! IT SEEMED TO BE SPLITTING IN TWO... FROM STEM TO STERN...

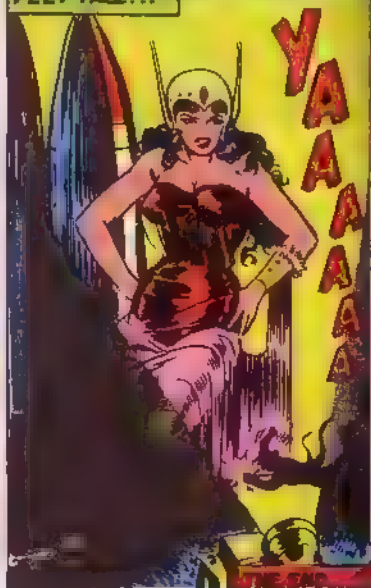


...AND AS THE TWO HALVES OF THE GIANT SHIP PARTED WIDER, I SCREAMED...



LARA! OH... NO!

LARA LOOKED EXACTLY AS SHE'D APPEARED ON THE T.V. MONITOR SCREEN! THE ONLY TROUBLE WAS SHE STOOD ABOUT TWO HUNDRED FEET TALL...



YAAAAA

HERE IS A TALE OF TENSION WITH SHEER,
STARK HORROR IN ITS GRIPPING CLIMAX!

STUMPED!

**A HORROR
SUSPENSE STORY**

FAR UP IN THE NORTHERN-MOST REACHES OF THE CANADIAN WOODS ARE MEN WHO LIVE BY TRAPPING THE VALUABLE FUR-BEARING ANIMALS WHICH ROAM THAT AREA! SUCH A MAN IS HENRI PETITE...

**MON DIEU! MY BEAR-TRAP!
SHE IS SPRUNG! THE LIMB
FROM THAT TREE FELL UPON
IT!**

HENRI PETITE HAS MANY TRAPS! DURING THE TRAPPING SEASON, HE SETS THEM OUT IN A ROUTE CALLED A 'TRAP-LINE'! IT TAKES MANY DAYS TO TRAVEL THIS TRAP-LINE AND COLLECT THE ANIMALS THAT HAVE BECOME ENSNARED...

**WHAT WILL I DO? IT TAKES
TWO MEN TO OPEN THE JAWS OF
THE BEAR-TRAP! ONE BY HIMSELF
DOES NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH!**

TRAPPERS LIKE HENRI LIVE IN SMALL, COMFORTABLE CABINS DEEP IN THE WOODS! ALL WINTER LONG THEY SET OUT FROM THEIR CABINS TO TRAVEL THEIR TRAP-LINES! THEY RETURN MANY DAYS...PERHAPS WEEKS...LATER, AND REST UP! AFTER THEY ARE RESTED, THEY SET OUT AGAIN...

ZAT IS TOO BAD! UNLESS I CAN GET SOMEONE TO HELP ME SET THE BEAR TRAP, THERE WILL BE NO BEAR SKINS FOR ME THIS WINTER!

THE BEAR-TRAP IS A HUGE STEEL-JAWED AFFAIR! IN THE CENTER IS A SMALL FLAT DISC WHICH TRIGGERS THE SET TRAP! USUALLY THE ANIMAL STEPS UPON THIS TRIGGER, AND THE TRAP SNAPS SHUT! BUT A BEAR-TRAP, BY NECESSITY, MUST BE A HUGE ONE...

U-U-U-U-H! AAH! IT IS USELESS FOR ME TO TRY TO PRY THE JAWS APART BY MYSELF!

BEARS SOMETIMES WEIGH AS MUCH AS A THOUSAND POUNDS! YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW STRONG A TRAP MUST BE TO CATCH A BEAR AND HOLD IT...

OH, WELL! PERHAPS DUVAL WILL HELP ME! I WOULD DO THE SAME FOR HIM!

MARCEL DUVAL IS ALSO A TRAPPER! HIS CABIN IS LOCATED NOT FAR FROM HENRI'S! DURING THE LONELY WINTER, WHEN THEY ARE NOT OUT ON THEIR TRAP LINES, THE TWO TRAPPERS SPEND MANY NIGHTS TOGETHER...PLAYING CHECKERS...

HENRI!

MARCEL! MY FRIEND! YOU ARE BACK!

I MAKE OUT WELL THIS TRIP! BUT STILL NO BEAR! THE TRAP WE SET TOGETHER HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHED!

I AM NOT AS FORTUNATE, MARCEL! MY BEAR-TRAP... SHE IS SPRUNG!

HENRI! YOU CATCH BEAR?

I CATCH TREE-LIMB! NOW... I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO! I CANNOT RE-SET TRAP ALONE!

I WILL HELP YOU, HENRI! WE BOTH SET EACH OTHER'S BEAR-TRAPS WHEN WINTER STARTED, DID WE NOT?

OUI, MARCEL! BUT NOW, YOU ARE TIRED! YOU WILL WANT TO REST AFTER YOUR TRAP-LINE TRIP!

THERE IS **ENOUGH**
TIME FOR REST WHEN
SUMMER COMES!
HOW MANY DAYS
JOURNEY IS IT?
I'VE FORGOTTEN!

IT IS
BUT **ONE**
DAY!

GOOD! WE
WILL LEAVE
IN THE
MORNING!

YOU ARE MY
BEST FRIEND,
MARCEL! I AM
LUCKY MAN!

GOOD NIGHT,
HENRI!

GOOD NIGHT,
MARCEL!

A FEW MILES FROM HENRI PETITE'S CABIN IS THE CABIN
OF JACQUES SOUBRET. ANOTHER TRAPPER! JACQUES HAS
ALWAYS HATED HENRI! HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN JEALOUS
OF HENRI'S TRAP-TERRITORY! HENRI'S TRAP-LINES
HAVE ALWAYS PRODUCED MANY MORE PELTS THAN
JACQUES'S...

BAH! **SEVEN PELTS!** THAT IS ALL
I FIND THIS TRIP! **HARDLY ENOUGH**
TO PAY FOR MY FOOD!

IN THE NORTH-WOODS COUNTRY, A TRAPPER'S TERRI-
TORY IS REGARDED AS SACRED! NO TRAPPER DARES
LAY HIS TRAPS IN ANOTHER'S TERRITORY! IT IS AN
UNWRITTEN LAW...

BUT IF HENRI PETITE WERE **DEAD,**
I COULD SET MY TRAPS IN **HIS** TERRI-
TORY! **MON DIEU,** HOW I **PRAY**
FOR THAT DAY!

THE NEXT MORNING, HENRI AND MARCEL START OUT FOR
HENRI'S BEAR-TRAP. TO RE-SET IT! JACQUES WATCHES
THEM GO...

I WONDER WHAT THOSE
TWO ARE UP TO? I WILL
FOLLOW THEM AND SEE!

TOWARDS NOON, THE TWO MEN REACH THE SPRUNG
BEAR-TRAP! JACQUES, KEEPING WELL HIDDEN, HAS
FOLLOWED THEM TO THE SPOT...

HERE IT IS, MARCEL! SEE
HOW THE TREE-LIMB HAS
FALLEN UPON THE RELEASE
DISC...

YES! WELL!
COME! LET US
RE-SET IT!

EACH MAN GRASPS ONE OF THE JAWS OF THE HUGE BEAR TRAP AND THEY BEGIN TO PULL...

UGGGHHH! *SACRE DIEU!* THIS IS A...GASP... POWERFUL ONE!

JUST A LITTLE... GASP... MORE... MARGEL!



THERE! IT IS SET!

WHEW! THINK OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A MAN WERE CAUGHT IN THIS THING! HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO GET OUT BY HIMSELF!



YOU ARE RIGHT, HENRI! JUST BE CAREFUL YOU YOURSELF DO NOT STEP INTO IT!

DO NOT WORRY, MARGEL! I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT IS! COME! LET US GO!



AS THE TWO FRIENDS BEGIN THEIR RETURN JOURNEY, JACQUES SOUBRET EMERGES FROM HIS HIDING PLACE...

SO! YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THE TRAP IS, EH, HENRI? WELL! I SURELY CAN FIX THAT!



JACQUES RETURNS TO HIS CABIN... MEANWHILE FORMULATING HIS TREACHEROUS SCHEME...

IF I WERE TO MOVE THE TRAP...JUST A LITTLE WAY UP THE TRAIL...AND HENRI WERE TO STEP IN IT...HE WOULD FREEZE TO DEATH BEFORE ANYONE MISSED HIM!



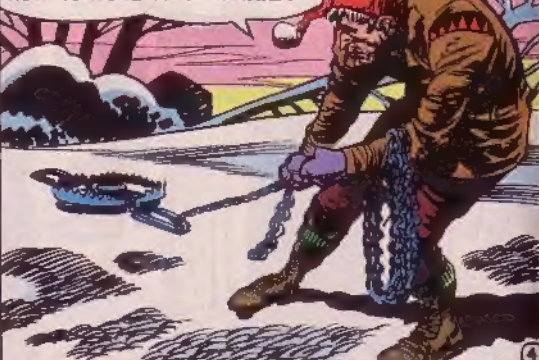
FROM HIS CABIN, JACQUES TAKES A HACK-SAW, TWO STRONG LOCKS, AND TWO LENGTHS OF HEAVY CHAIN! HE RETURNS WITH THEM TO HENRI'S BEAR-TRAP...

I MUST BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO SPRING THE TRAP WHILE I MOVE IT!



SLOWLY...CAUTIOUSLY...JACQUES CUTS THE CHAIN THAT ANCHORS THE BEAR-TRAP WITH THE HACK-SAW...

AHH! IT IS CUT THROUGH! NOW TO MOVE IT UP-TRAIL!



JACQUES IS GASPING FOR BREATH WHEN HE FINALLY FINISHES DRAGGING THE SET-TRAP UP-TRAIL TO A SPOT BETWEEN TWO TALL TREES...



WHEN! I AM SHAKING LIKE A LEAF! BUT...I HAVE DONE IT!

CURLING ONE OF THE LENGTHS OF CHAIN ABOUT ONE OF THE TWO TREES AND LOOPING IT THROUGH THE TRAP, JACQUES LOCKS IT CLOSED WITH ONE OF THE TWO LOCKS HE'S BROUGHT...



THERE! NOW THE OTHER ONE!

REPEATING THIS MANEUVER ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE TRAIL, JACQUES SECURES THE TRAP TIGHTLY BETWEEN THE TWO TREES...



NOW TO HIDE THE TRAP SO HENRI WILL NOT SEE IT!

A FEW HANDFULS OF DEAD LEAVES AND DRIED TWIGS AND THE TRAP IS CAMOUFLAGED! JACQUES GRINS AT HIS WORK...



HEH, HEH! NOW IT IS READY FOR YOU, HENRI! READY FOR YOU!

IT IS ALMOST A WEEK LATER THAT HENRI PETITE COMPLETES ANOTHER TRAP-LINE TOUR AND MOVES UP THE TRAIL TOWARD HIS BEAR-TRAP...



I DO NOT HEAR ANY THRASHING OR GROWLING! AHH! NO LUCK! WELL! I WILL CHECK TO SEE IF THE TRAP IS STILL...

THE MIGHTY JAWS OF THE TRAP SPRING SHUT ON HENRI'S ANKLE...



FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, HENRI STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF! THE PAIN IS EXCRUCIATING! THE HUGE STEEL TEETH DIG IN DEEP! FINALLY, HE LAYS BACK EXHAUSTED...



IT...IT IS NO USE...GASP! IT IS...GASP...NO USE! I CANNOT OPEN THE TRAP BY MYSELF! I... GASP...I MUST WAIT FOR...GASP...SOMEONE TO... GASP...RESCUE ME!

HENRI LOOKS AROUND! HIS PACK AND HIS GUN
LAY WHERE THEY HAVE FALLEN! HE REACHES
OUT FOR THEM...

SACRE DIEU!
I FORGOT ABOUT
YOUR GUN...
YOUR PACK!

JACQUES! OH...
JACQUES! DIEU
MERCI!



JACQUES MOVES FROM HIS HIDING PLACE AND DRAGS HENRI'S
EQUIPMENT BEYOND HIS REACH...

JACQUES? WHAT ARE
YOU DOING? HELP ME!
HELP ME!

OH, NO, HENRI! YOU
ARE GOING TO STAY HERE...
AND FREEZE TO
DEATH!



JACQUES! WHAT
ARE YOU SAY-
ING? YOU
WOULD LEAVE
ME HERE?

OF COURSE,
MON AMI! WHO
DO YOU THINK
MOVED YOUR
TRAP IN THE
FIRST PLACE?



YOU!
YOU
DID
THIS?
BUT
WHY?

BECAUSE I WANT YOUR
TRAP-LINES, HENRI!
THIS WILL LOOK LIKE
AN UNFORTUNATE
ACCIDENT! THEY'LL
THINK YOU WERE
RELOCATING YOUR
TRAP...AND IT
SPRUNG!



I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO
FOLLOW YOU TO SEE IF MY
PLAN WORKED! I FORGOT
ABOUT YOUR PACK AND GUN!
NOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO
REACH THEM! WELL! BON JOUR,
HENRI! PERHAPS A WILD CAT
OR WOLF WILL END YOUR
SUFFERING...FAST!



JACQUES DISAPPEARS INTO THE WOODS AND HENRI STARES
AFTER HIM...DUMBFOUNDED...

I...I WILL STARVE WITHOUT MY
PACK! I CANNOT PROTECT MYSELF...
WITHOUT MY GUN! I WILL
DIE HERE!



FOR MANY HOURS, HENRI STRUGGLES IN VAIN TRY-
ING TO FREE HIMSELF...TRYING TO REACH HIS KNAP-
SACK! BUT HE KNOWS THAT IT IS USELESS! HE
THINKS OF THE MANY ANIMALS THAT HE HAS
TRAPPED THIS WAY! A DAY PASSES! TWO! HUNGER
GNAWS AT HENRI'S STOMACH...



I...MUST...FREE...MYSELF!
I...I...MUST!

A WEEK LATER, MARCEL DUVAL COMES TO SEE JACQUES SOUBRET...

IT IS ABOUT **HENRI PETITE!** HE HAS NOT RETURNED FROM HIS TRAP-LINE TOUR! I AM **WORRIED** ABOUT HIM!



GIVE HIM A FEW MORE DAYS! IF HE DOES NOT COME... WE WILL LOOK FOR HIM!

MEANWHILE, OUT IN THE WOODS, A RAGGED, HALF-STARVED FIGURE DRAGS ITSELF ALONG...LEAVING A TRAIL OF BLOOD BEHIND IT...



ON AND ON...PAINFULLY, HENRI PULLS HIMSELF! AS NIGHT FALLS, HE HEARS THE CABIN OF JACQUES SOUBRET...



JACQUES IS IN HIS COT DOZING WHEN THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN! HENRI STANDS FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY...THE STUMP OF HIS RIGHT LEG SWINGING CRAZILY...



HENRI! YOU...YOU... YOU FREED YOURSELF! YOU...YOU...**MON DIEU!** YOUR LEG!

THE SHOTGUN IN HENRI'S HANDS EXPLODES AND JACQUE'S FACE MELTS INTO A RED MASH...



WHEN MARCEL DUVAL COMES TO SOUBRET'S CABIN THE NEXT MORNING, HE FINDS JACQUES DEAD! HENRI GASPS OUT HIS STORY...



THE...THE DIRTY SWINE! BUT... BUT HOW DID YOU FREE YOURSELF, HENRI? YOU HAD A...GULP... A KNIFE?

NO...GASP... MY...KNIFE... WAS...IN... PACK...

HENRI'S ANSWER IS ALMOST INAUDIBLE! IT COMES IN HIS DYING BREATH...



I...I CHEW...I CHEW MY LEG OFF!

THE END